WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network management system comprising:

5   a gateway which is coupled to one or more managed objects and which is configured to deliver messages between the managed objects and one or more managers; and

        a platform-independent interface to the gateway, wherein the gateway is
10   configurable to communicate with the managers through the platform-independent interface to deliver the messages;

        wherein the gateway is configurable to deliver the messages for each manager in a format selected by that manager.
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2.   The network management system of claim 1, wherein the selected format comprises text.

3.   The network management system of claim 1, wherein the selected format
20   comprises Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN1).

4.   The network management method of claim 1, wherein the messages are communicated with the managers via Internet Inter-Object Protocol (IIOP).

25 5. The network management system of claim 1, wherein the platform-independent interface to the gateway is expressed in an interface definition language, and wherein the interface definition language comprises a language for defining interfaces to managed objects across a plurality of platforms and across a plurality of programming languages.

6.   The network management system of claim 5, wherein the interface definition language comprises OMG IDL.

7.   The network management system of claim 1, wherein the managed objects comprise one or more objects corresponding to a telephone network.

8.   The network management system of claim 1, wherein the managed objects comprise an object corresponding to a telecommunications device.

9.   The network management system of claim 1, wherein the gateway comprises a request gateway which is configured to deliver messages generated by the one or more managers to the one or more managed objects, and wherein the messages comprise requests for the one or more managed objects.

10.   The network management system of claim 9, wherein the requests comprise a query for information concerning one of the managed objects.

11.   The network management system of claim 9, wherein the requests comprise a command to set one or more parameters of one of the managed objects.

12.   The network management system of claim 9, wherein the requests are converted from the interface definition language to a Portable Management Interface (PMI) format prior to delivery to the managed objects.

13.   The network management system of claim 9, wherein the requests are converted from the interface definition language to a platform-specific format prior to delivery to the managed objects.

14.   The network management system of claim 1, wherein the gateway comprises an event gateway, and wherein the messages comprise events associated with the managed objects.

5   15.   The network management system of claim 14, the events comprise an alert generated by one of the managed objects.

16.   A network management method comprising:

10   one or more managers each selecting a format for messages deliverable by a gateway between one or more managed objects and each of the one or more managers, wherein the gateway is configurable to communicate with the managers through a platform-independent interface to deliver the messages; and

15   delivering the messages between the one or more managed objects and the one or more managers, according to the format selected by each manager.

17.   The network management method of claim 16, wherein the selected format
20   comprises text.

18.   The network management method of claim 16, wherein the selected format comprises Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN1).

25   19.   The network management method of claim 16, wherein the messages are communicated with the managers via Internet Inter-Object Protocol (IIOP).

20.   The network management method of claim 16, wherein the platform-independent interface to the gateway is expressed in an interface definition language, and wherein the

interface definition language comprises a language for defining interfaces to managed objects across a plurality of platforms and across a plurality of programming languages.

21. The network management method of claim 20, wherein the interface definition language comprises OMG IDL.

22. The network management method of claim 16, wherein the managed objects comprise one or more objects corresponding to a telephone network.

23. The network management method of claim 16, wherein the managed objects comprise an object corresponding to a telecommunications device.

24. The network management method of claim 16, wherein the gateway comprises a request gateway which is configured to deliver messages generated by the one or more managers to the one or more managed objects, and wherein the messages comprise requests for the one or more managed objects.

25. The network management method of claim 24, wherein the requests comprise a query for information concerning one of the managed objects.

26. The network management method of claim 24, wherein the requests comprise a command to set one or more parameters of one of the managed objects.

27. The network management method of claim 24, wherein the requests are converted from the interface definition language to a Portable Management Interface (PMI) format prior to delivery to the managed objects.

28. The network management method of claim 24, wherein the requests are converted from the interface definition language to a platform-specific format prior to delivery to the managed objects.

29.   The network management method of claim 16, wherein the gateway comprises an event gateway, and wherein the messages comprise events associated with the managed objects.

30.   The network management method of claim 29, the events comprise an alert generated by one of the managed objects.

31.   A carrier medium comprising program instructions for network management, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to perform:

> one or more managers each selecting a format for messages deliverable by a gateway between one or more managed objects and the one or more managers, wherein the gateway is configurable to communicate with the managers through a platform-independent interface to deliver the messages; and

> delivering the messages between the one or more managed objects and the one or more managers.

32.   The carrier medium of claim 31, wherein the selected format comprises text.

33.   The carrier medium of claim 31, wherein the selected format comprises Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN1).

34.   The carrier medium of claim 31, wherein the messages are communicated with the managers via Internet Inter-Object Protocol (IIOP).

35.   The carrier medium of claim 31, wherein the platform-independent interface to the gateway is expressed in an interface definition language, and wherein the interface
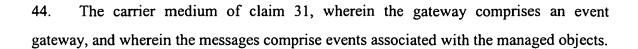
definition language comprises a language for defining interfaces to managed objects across a plurality of platforms and across a plurality of programming languages.

36. The carrier medium of claim 35, wherein the interface definition language comprises OMG IDL.

37. The carrier medium of claim 31, wherein the managed objects comprise one or more objects corresponding to a telephone network.

38. The carrier medium of claim 31, wherein the managed objects comprise an object corresponding to a telecommunications device.

39. The carrier medium of claim 31, wherein the gateway comprises a request gateway which is configured to deliver messages generated by the one or more managers to the one or more managed objects, and wherein the messages comprise requests for the one or more managed objects.

40. The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the requests comprise a query for information concerning one of the managed objects.

41. The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the requests comprise a command to set one or more parameters of one of the managed objects.

42. The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the requests are converted from the interface definition language to a Portable Management Interface (PMI) format prior to delivery to the managed objects.

43. The carrier medium of claim 39, wherein the requests are converted from the interface definition language to a platform-specific format prior to delivery to the managed objects.

44. The carrier medium of claim 31, wherein the gateway comprises an event gateway, and wherein the messages comprise events associated with the managed objects.

5   45. The carrier medium of claim 44, the events comprise an alert generated by one of the managed objects.